

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph immediately following the title of the invention on page 1 of the Substitute Specification:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a national-phase application under 35 U.S.C. §371, based on PCT Application No. PCT/DE03/00779 filed on March 12, 2003, and the present application claims the priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of German Patent Application No. 10235163.5 filed on August 1, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 27 of the Substitute Specification with the following amended paragraph:

Consequently, the performance and robustness of the entire system are able to be increased, and the field outage rates are able to be reduced since as a result of the more in-depth error pattern detection, total sensor failure is not detected for all error patterns. In addition, the present invention is advantageous because error detection and optimization are able to be facilitated in the restraint system development and testing phase. However, use of the present invention is also possible and practical in other automobile application areas in which sensors are used, in particular in vehicle dynamics control and navigation.